

THE HISTORY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT  
SHAWNEE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL, TECUMSEH, KANSAS

by

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## CHAPTER I

### HISTORY OF SHAWNEE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

In the fall of 1959 a portion of Highland Park Rural High School District No. 10 was annexed to the City of Topeka, making it a part of Topeka School District No. 23. The remaining area, comprised of that part of Shawnee County north of 45th street, west of Douglas County line, south of Kansas River, and east of the new city limits, became known as District No. 10. Students within this rural area had no high school to attend. In June, 1960, a Fact Finding Committee made up of individuals representing each sector of the district began a research project looking into the feasibility of building a high school in the area to facilitate the students in the district.

The following September, Dr. H. A. Dexter proposed that a special meeting be held to determine whether patrons of District No. 10 wanted to join the patrons of District No. 1 or Berryton, Kansas, to build a new high school plant. No decision was reached at this meeting, but patrons of Rural High School District No. 10 voted on December 14, 1960, to annex Berryton Rural High School if they wished to join with District No. 10 to form a new high school district. The Berryton Rural High School patrons, seeing the need for a larger high school, voted January 31, 1961, to join with District No. 10 to form a new district to be known as Rural High School District No. 10, Shawnee County, State of Kansas.

The school boards of the two districts then began viewing sites in the Watson area as a suitable site for the new high school. The land just north of the Evangelical United Brethren Church owned by Mr. Claude Anno was selected as the location for the new school.

On January 24, 1961, Mr. Barney Hays, the principal of Highland Park High School, was named principal of the district, effective March 1, 1961. The members of the board of education of Rural High School District No. 10 at this time were Mr. E. F. Kreipe, director; Mr. J. B. England, clerk; and Dr. H. A. Dexter, treasurer. One of the recommendations included in the proceedings of the meeting on January 31 was that the school board be increased to five members and that the other two candidates would come from Rural High School District No. 1 area. At the annual meeting, June 1, 1961, Mr. Paul Renyer and Mr. Jack Gies were chosen to serve as the two other members of the Board of Education.

Construction of the new high school which was planned for a long range enrollment of 750 pupils with facilities built for 450 pupils began on August 23, 1961, and was completed on November 15, 1962, the date of the open house and dedication.

The name "Shawnee Heights" came from suggestions offered by the eighth grade students of the Tecumseh, Berryton, and Richland grade schools. The Board of Education selected the three names to be voted upon by the eighth grade students of the three schools: Kawaka, which was submitted by Carolyn Ramey and Letty Tobias; Watson Rural was submitted by Gracie Mae Nelson; and Shawnee Heights was offered by Bob Nowlan and Jeanette Colhouer.

The board told the teachers at Berryton High School that they could have a teaching job at the new school if they so desired. Nine teachers decided to accept the position. Mr. Hays hired twelve teachers from Highland Park and four teachers from other schools to make up the faculty of the new high school.

The first year had a beginning enrollment of 263 students, the smallest class being the senior class—23 students. The school year began

with only three-fourths of the gym floor completed and no locker rooms for the football team.

#### ATHLETIC FACILITIES

The original plans for the new school included the following physical educational facilities;

- A six lane 42' x 75' outdoor-indoor pool
- A two-stations gymnasium with a canvas partition
- A stadium with a seating capacity of 1,600, with a concession stand and press box
- Boys and girls physical education rooms for 50 groups 6/1 lockers
- Adequate office, towel room, showers and storage space
- Team room for sixty
- Uniform drying for one hundred uniforms
- Training room
- Outdoor equipment
- Indoor equipment
- Adequate off-gym storage

Shawnee Heights was a rarity around the city athletic circuit—a school with its own football stadium. The only city schools which had its own football stadium was Highland Park and Hayden. Topeka High and Topeka West played their games at Moore Bowl on the Washburn University campus.

The seating in both the stadium and the gym were arranged so that more seats could be added when it became necessary. The new gymnasium could be expanded to seat 2,500. Another outstanding feature of the new gymnasium was the mercury vapor lighting which gave the interior a blue effect which earned it the title "House of Blue Lights." The swimming pool was omitted from the original plans.

The actual history of the interscholastic athletic program began on March 20, 1961, when Mr. Hays related to the school board that School District No. 10 had been invited to become a member of the Centennial League. Other schools in the league included Seaman, Highland Park, Hayden, Haskell, Washburn Rural and Atchison. Haskell was dropped in the spring of 1963 and Leavenworth joined the league that same year. The board voted to accept the

invitition and to start athletic activities at the beginning of the 1962 season. Haskell was the only other Class A school in the league. All the other schools were Class AA.

Shawnee Heights was to have all sports but for the first year the golf and swimming programs were delayed.

The coaching staff of the new school included Mr. Claude Reynolds, Highland Park track coach, as the athletic director, cross country, and track coach; Mr. Ed Delk, former Highland Park athlete and at that time coach at Wamego Rural High School, as head basketball coach; Mr. Norman Stoppel, assistant football coach at Wyendotte High School, as head football coach; Mr. Charles Crane, Highland Park assistant football coach, moved to Shawnee Heights in the same capacity; Mr. Don Stroud, coach at Berryton High, as an assistant coach and head of the physical education department. Coach Stroud later became the gymnastics and tennis coach, also.

All coaches originally hired have remained in the school system through its four-year history with the exception of Mr. Norman Stoppel who resigned at the end of the first year. Mr. Ed Delk assumed the position as head football coach.

Mr. Charles Crane assumed the duties of wrestling coach when it was added to the sports program.

#### AIMS AND PURPOSES

The purpose of this study was to provide a record of the sports of the interscholastic athletic program of the new high school, Shawnee Heights. This study will serve as a four-year record of the progress of the physical education program at Shawnee Heights. As a backdrop to this successfull program, a brief history of the school was given in the introduction along with a brief background into the facilities available for this progress.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Material for this paper was secured from the school's yearbooks and newspapers, local newspapers, interviews, student handbooks, faculty handbooks, parent handbooks, and from the records of the Board of Education meetings.

## FINANCING

Gate receipts provide the major portion of the money necessary to finance the athletic program at Shawnee Heights. During the first two years the program was financed by the receipts of the football and basketball competition. During the 1962-63 school year, the expenses amounted to \$3,914.81 compared to \$3,107.44 received from gate receipts. Basketball receipts totaled \$2,070.14 of the total amount while basketball expenses totaled only \$1,440.77. Football receipts totaled \$1,037.30 while the expenses for football totaled \$1,907.39. The ratio of these figures were repeated each year during the four-year history of the Shawnee Heights High School. An interesting point in relation to the financing of the athletic program is the fact that the largest gate receipts came from intra-city competition which justifies one major reason why Shawnee Heights, a Class A school, competes with the Class AA city schools.

The second year after the opening of the Shawnee Heights history saw both expense and receipt figures increased. In 1963-64 the expenses amounted to \$7,906.27 while the receipts amounted to \$7,249.33. Once again the basketball receipts, \$4,810.99, accounted for over one-half of the total amount while the expenses for basketball this year amounted to \$4,326.84. This figure is not a true one since athletic equipment for other sports was purchased and included in this figure. Expenses for the 1963-64 football

season totaled \$2,584.78 as compared to a receipt total of \$2,439.24. Intra-city competition accounted for \$2,722.94 of the total receipts for the year. The activity fund also provided \$500.00 for the athletic program for the first time.

In 1964-65 wrestling contributed for the first time to the total receipts for the year. The total amount received during the school year was \$5,055.66 with basketball receipts constituting \$2,680.07 of this total. The activity fund appropriated \$716.00 for athletics. Intra-city competition contributed \$2,496.49. Expenses for the year amounted to \$5,088.11, the nearest the school has ever been to operating their athletic program in the black. The expense of football for this year was the greatest in proportion to the receipts in the history of the program. Receipts \$2,339.40; expenses \$3,987.90. Basketball receipts totaled \$2,680.07 with expenses amounting to \$1,292.29. The receipts from wrestling were very small, \$36.12.

In 1965-66 Shawnee Heights High School realized the increased interest in its athletic program when receipts amounted to \$7,474.62 with both track and wrestling contributing to the total, as well as football and basketball. The activity fund contributed \$605.44. Basketball receipts constituted \$3,685.58 with an expense figure of \$2,069.98. Football receipts reached a new high, \$3,417.29 with an expense figure of \$3,749.93. Track receipts amounted to \$166.25, and wrestling receipts also reached a new high with a figure of \$206.50. Intra-city competition contributed \$3,460.65 to the total receipt figure.

These figures do not give the complete picture of the finance program at Shawnee Heights since the entire athletic program is financed through the receipts. Golf, gymnastics, and tennis have expenses but do not contribute to the receipts. Track expenses amount to \$2,390.52 over

the four-year period while it has only contributed to the finances the past year. This fact is also true of wrestling and other sports.

As these figures prove, Shawnee Heights High School's Athletic Program has yet to see its first year of operating in the black. The deficit for each of the years was carried forward to the following year.

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY OF SHAWNEE HEIGHTS ATHLETIC PROGRAM

#### PURPOSE OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

One primary purpose of athletics at Shawnee Heights has been to build men through good conduct.

In 1964 and 1965 Shawnee Heights High School was named the winner of the first Topeka Youth Council Sportsmanship Award. This award in the form of a three-foot trophy was based upon the ratings of student cheering sections, cheerleaders, teams, coaches, and local spectators at football and basketball games. Kiwanis Club of West Topeka felt a need for such a trophy when there was much criticism of the unsportsmanlike behavior at Topeka city school games.

Every high school game in the two sports was rated by several judges, including the referees and members of various civic organizations who volunteered to help.

#### FOOTBALL

September 14, 1962, opened the high school football season for all of Topeka, Kansas, schools, but it was a very significant date for Shawnee Heights High School. This date marked the first competitive sport for the brand new school. Mr. Norman Stoppel, the first football coach for the Thunderbirds, worked under many handicaps. The school was not completed by the opening day of school; therefore, equipment was checked out in the Industrial Arts room. There were no showers so the boys took their after-practice baths in a horse tank. This unique feature of the new school received much publicity—including pictures of the daily ritual in

the local newspapers. The first game scheduled to be played on the home grounds was played on the Burlington field because of the unfinished facilities. Coach Stoppel and his three assistants, Charles Crane, Don Stroud and Ed Delk worked to co-ordinate a football program composed of boys from four different backgrounds having come to Shawnee Heights from four different schools of varying size. Many of the boys had no previous experience. The season was a bleak one with an 0-8 record, but it did give a brighter view for the following year with thirteen lettermen returning. Forty-eight boys completed the season including only four seniors. One sophomore boy of this number was to become one of the greatest athletes in the four-year history of the new school. He was Dean Ferrell, co-captain of the 1962 football team.

When Norman Stoppel announced his resignation on March 21, 1963, Ed Delk assumed the football coaching reins for the following fall. The T-Birds opened the 1963 season against two strong non-league schools—Burlington and Manhattan losing both games. The Thunderbird team lost eight more starts before they captured their first football victory for the new school in the last game of the season against Hiawatha. Three assistant coaches, Charles Crane, Irl George, and Richard Haas, helped Coach Delk with the increased squad size. Sixty boys participated in football during the 1963 season. This season was Shawnee Heights first year in the Centennial League, and it was found to be a very tough league.

The 1964 football season had a lighter schedule for the Thunderbirds when Paola, a Class A school, replaced the potent Class AA Manhattan Indians. The season looked brighter from the very first game of the year when Shawnee Heights outran, outthrew, and outscored the Burlington Wildcats, 27-0, giving the new school its second football victory. They also won their first

Centennial League victory over their arch-rival, Highland Park. The T-Bird football team also defeated Seaman, giving them a 3-6 record for their best season in their three years of play. They were fifth place in the league over Highland Park and Seaman. The leading football player in the history of Shawnee Heights, Dean Ferrell, graduated following this season.

The T-Birds got the 1965 season off to a good start with a 7-0 victory over Burlington. They were not to repeat this victory role again until the last game with a 25-20 win over Hiawatha. The Shawnee Heights team had lost a great deal of its strength through graduation the preceding spring. Coach Delk and his three assistants worked at molding and rebuilding the under-classmen for the next year and the future years of football at Shawnee Heights. This season was one of enthusiasm and competitiveness on the part of the boys who reported for football practice. Underclassmen pushed seniors throughout the season for starting berths, a factor which leads Shawnee Heights fans to look to next year with great optimism. The 1966 football season should be the best in T-Bird history with nine tackles and eight guards returning to the team—all of whom have the competitive spirit.

During the four-year history of Shawnee Heights, the football team has been coached by two head coaches. Mr. Norman Stoppel coached the Thunderbirds during the first year, and Mr. Ed Delk has been the coach the following three years.

The Thunderbirds finished the first season with no wins and eight losses. During the second season they won one game and lost eight games. The 1964 season closed with the Thunderbirds scoring three wins against six losses. They scored two wins and seven losses during the 1965 season. The record stands six wins and twenty-nine losses during the four years of competition. The opponents and scores of all football games are included in the appendix.

## BASKETBALL

Coach Delk found the 1962-63 basketball season much like the football season, a year of developing a team from the boys who had come to the new school from Berryton, Tecumseh, and Highland Park. The season was a rough one for the Thunderbirds as they played other Centennial League schools. The first team of the new school had no seniors and only one junior who was six foot in height. The prospects for the future looked tremendous with three six-foot sophomores and a 6'3" freshman. The first triumph in varsity competition for the new school came when Coach Delk's quintet defeated defending state Class A champions, Immaculata, 73-64. Larry Jeffery was named Capital-Journal Player-of-the-Week for his performance in this game. Although Larry was only a 5'11" postman, he collected 16 rebounds and scored 26 points. The team performed many inspiring minutes of play during the first year, and Coach Delk saw a great team with a great competitive spirit developing although the first season ended with a 1-18 record.

The record of the 1963-64 season was much improved over the 1962-63 season. The second basketball victory for the new school came during the Tonganoxie Holiday Basketball Tournament. Once again the victory was over Immaculata, 80-69. The T-Birds returned to the tournament the following night to defeat Mau Hill, 82-68. This enabled Shawnee Heights to advance to the finals to play against the host school, Tonganoxie, an accomplishment with which everyone associated with the school was very proud. The team's performance fell short in the championship game, and were defeated 75-65. Their two wins, however, netted them the second-place trophy, the first athletic trophy for the school.

Shawnee Heights played host to its first Regional Basketball Tournament March 3, 1964. They won their first game of the tournament against Mau Hill,

80-68. The loss the following night to Wanego, 68-51, did not dampen the spirit of the team as they came back the next night to defeat Effingham 61-50 to earn a third-place trophy.

The T-Birds ended the season with an improved record of five wins and seventeen losses.

Coach Ed Delk's 1964-65 team returned four players who started at least part of the season the preceding year, including two of the three top scorers. Gary Woodman, 6'6", and Ken Norris, 6'5", were definite assets to the team. The Shawnee Heights basketball team was off to a fine beginning by defeating the Bonner Springs Braves 54-49. They came back in the second game of the season to defeat Turner 57-50 which placed the Shawnee Heights Thunderbirds well on their way to a first winning season.

The Thunderbird quintet returned to the Tonganoxie Holiday Basketball Tournament to win once again the second-place trophy when they defeated Desoto, 54-34, and Immaculeta, 66-54. The last night of the tournament was the fateful night for the T-Birds when Wanego defeated them in the championship game, 57-37.

Despite the high hopes and high spirits of the Thunderbird team and fans, a strong favorite in the Regional Tournament, Shawnee Heights dropped the opening game to Hiawatha, 57-53, in an overtime.

The regular season play gained the new school their best season of the short three-year history with a record of nine wins and eleven losses, many of which were very close contests.

If an outstanding game for the season was to be chosen, it would have to be the meeting of the arch-rivals, Shawnee Heights vs. Highland Park. Throughout the hard fought battle it was anyone's game but the statistics show why Shawnee Heights came out the victor. The T-Birds connected with

34 of 41 free throw attempts. Highland Park outscored the Heights from the field, however, by fourteen points. The victory was not decided until after the three-minute overtime play when Shawnee Heights defeated Highland Park, 72-68.

As the Thunderbirds closed their 1964-65 season, the 1965-66 year looked very promising for a school which had opened its doors just three years earlier. The optimists were not to be disappointed for the following season was the one which brought prominence to the new school. The year was a big one for the T-Birds with 6'6" senior Gary Woodman and 6'3" Mike Elwell giving a good height advantage to the team. Coach Dalk had the depth which he needed to make a championship team. The only difference in the top ten players was the height advantage of Woodman and Elwell. The Thunderbirds went into the Tonganoxie Holiday Tournament with a 3-1 record and came away with a centerpiece for their trophy case, the championship trophy, Shawnee Heights' first championship trophy. This victory proved to be only a beginning for a very determined, very hardworking group of boys. They were desirous of proving that they belonged in the Centennial League with Class AA schools. The eye-opener of the season came when the Leavenworth Pioneers paid a visit to the "House of Blue Lights." The league-leading Leavenworth quintet went home defeated 73-69 giving Shawnee Heights the lead in the Centennial League. Hayden High School handed Shawnee Heights its first big defeat of the year in a 60-46 contest to break an eight-game winning streak. The stunning blow of the season came when the T-Birds went into a mid-season slump dropping four games in a row to Washburn Rural, Leavenworth, Seaman, and Hayden—all of whom they had defeated previously in the season with the exception of Hayden. The first loss to Washburn Rural eliminated the Heights from a first place tie in the league. The other losses caused the Thunderbirds to

finish third in the league. Despite the mid-season losses, the T-Birds fought back. They traveled to the Regional Tournament determined to bring back a championship trophy and the right to attend the State Class A Basketball Tournament. The explosive team out-rebounded, out-shot, and out-defended the Washburn Rural Junior Blues to take the championship trophy.

A very nervous group of players journeyed to their first State Basketball Tournament. They won their first victory over Scott City in the final ten seconds, 44-40. They astounded the Lyons team by snapping their unbeaten streak of twenty-one games by a 57-55 victory in double overtime play. A courageous Shawnee Heights team met a tenacious Marysville team in the Class A Basketball Championship game. The T-Birds fought back from certain defeat many times only to have the score read 61-59 with Marysville the victors. The tournament had been a big one for Coach Delk, the T-Bird team and the fans, and the loss did not dampen their enthusiasm. At the sound of the final buzzer, the fans rushed onto the floor to congratulate the losers as though they were champions, a fact which won recognition in the local Hutchinson newspapers. The Shawnee Heights fans felt they had a right to be proud of their team; they had advanced to the state finals in its fourth year of competition.

The T-Birds finished the season with an 18-7 record.

The varsity outlook for the 1966-67 season is again a good one. The fans are looking forward with interest and anticipation as three members of the state tournament squad return. They will be supported by several fine prospects from both the B-team and freshman team who possess both height and speed.

Mr. Ed Delk has been head basketball coach throughout the four-year history of the school.

The Thunderbirds scored one win against eighteen losses the first year of competition.. The second year the Thunderbirds recorded five wins and seventeen losses. During the 1964-65 season, they won nine and lost eleven starts. The successful 1965-66 season ended with eighteen wins and seven losses. The opponents and scores of all basketball games are included in the appendix.

#### CROSS COUNTRY

In cross country as in other sports, Shawnee Heights lacked experience during the first year. Coach Claude Reynolds worked the inexperienced runners hard during the fall of 1962. He encouraged the squad to be competitive but they were unable to win a single victory. The cross country team suffered an even poorer 1963 season when many of the previous lettermen did not come out for competition. The team competed in two dual meets, four invitational meets, the Centennial League Meet, Regional Meet and the State Meet. Coach Reynolds had only one runner, Jay Longabach, who ever finished in the winners bracket in the above meets.

The fall of 1964 saw an increase in the size of the squad over the first year. The year was termed a success if for no other reason than the valuable experience that had been gained in the wide competition faced during the season. Coach Reynold's squad was able to capture a first in cross country for the new school—a win over Highland Park. The future of cross country looked very bright at the close of the 1964 season.

The fall of 1965 found Coach Reynolds once again trying to build a cross country squad from a young inexperienced group of harriers. The only returning experienced runner on the team was Jay Longabach. Once again the season closed with a bright future for the fall of 1966. Coach Reynolds will have four returning lettermen and three experienced squadmen returning this fall. With the experience which the team gained to go with the improved

running ability, the T-Bird harriers should be able to hold their own against future competitors.

Mr. Claude Reynolds has been the coach of cross country for the past four years.

The cross country squad has scored only one victory during the four-year history.

#### WRESTLING

Wrestling began in the school under Coach Charles Crane with no regular schedule. During the first year twelve boys certified to fill ten weight classes by some boys wrestling in heavier weight classes; otherwise, only seven weight classes were filled. First tournament competition was the District Tournament at Highland Park High School, Topeka, Kansas. All Shawnee Heights wrestlers were pinned. The season ended with five victorious matches. Mike Shoemaker, 145 pound weight division won three matches and Phil Ranier, 180 pound weight division, won the other two matches. Other competing wrestlers seldom kept from being pinned, and the season ended with an 0-4 record. All twelve certified wrestlers were lettered in hopes each would return to the squad the following season.

Coach Crane's 1963 season had five returning lettermen to the squad. The second wrestling season in the school's history had a regular schedule which resulted in a season finish of two wins. The T-Birds were victors over Olathe and Riley County and had six defeats. Nineteen wrestlers were qualified to fill ten weight classes. Doug Uhl won the first tournament medal on the basis of a tie for the school at the Regional Meet at Clay Center, Kansas. Fred Bland also won a fourth place medal in the City Tournament. Coach Crane lettered eight wrestlers for the season.

The next season, 1964, many more boys reported for wrestling practice making the competition much keener. Twenty-six wrestlers, seven of whom were lettermen, qualified. The Shawnee Heights wrestling team won three of seven matches during the season. Nine boys competed in the Olathe Tournament winning a second place trophy. In the District Tournament, Mike Uhl, 145 pound division, and Phil Shoemaker, 127 pound division, qualified for the finals winning third and fourth places, respectively, earning them the right to compete at the Regional Tournament at Arkansas City. Neither boy placed at the tournament. Three wrestlers placed second, third and fourth in the City Tournament.

Twelve boys lettered in the sport. Three seniors from the B-team lettered on the basis of three-year participation in the sport.

In 1964 eighteen boys certified for a much improved season. Coach Crane had six returning lettermen to lead the T-Birds to a season record of four wins, two defeats, and one tie. The grapplers participated in five tournaments placing fourth in an eight-team tournament at Olathe. They also placed fourth in three tournament meets, in the Centennial League Meet against six teams, in the District Meet against nine teams, and in the Regional Meet against eighteen schools. Lawrence Wright, heavyweight division; Mike Singer, 120 pound weight division; Terry Smith, 160 pound weight division; and Phil Shoemaker, 133 pound weight division, were the first Shawnee Heights grapplers to attend a state meet bringing home eleventh place with Lawrence Wright winning first in the heavyweight division.

Eleven wrestlers lettered for the year.

The future looks bright for the wrestlers at Shawnee Heights with all of the squad returning with the exception of two members. The returning

squadmen includes state champion Lawrence Wright.

Mr. Charles Crane has coached the wrestling team for the past four years. The grapplers lost four meets during the 1962 season. In the 1963 season they won two meets and lost six. The Thunderbird grapplers scored three wins to four losses in 1964. The successful season was 1965 when they won four meets, lost three meets and tied one meet.

#### TRACK

Claude Reynolds has coached the track team throughout the four-year history of Shawnee Heights High School. Forty-eight boys reported for the spring 1963 season. This first year was a building process for T-Bird trackmen. They competed in nine meets but failed to win any outstanding victories. The squad was unable to score any points in the Ottawa Relays, Emporia State Relays or the Regional Meet. They finished last in the Centennial League Meet. Coach Reynolds lettered seventeen boys.

Fifty-nine boys competed for Coach Reynolds during the 1964 season. This season proved to be a better one for the Thunderbirds. They placed second in the two quadrangular meets and tied for fourth place in their own Shawnee Heights Relays. The team failed to score any points in the Ottawa Relays and in the Regional Meet. Twenty-three boys were lettered for this track season.

The Shawnee Heights trackmen competed in ten meets in the spring of 1965. This year was still a building one where the squad made a very dim showing in the meets in which they participated. However, a second-place was recorded in a quadrangular meet and a tie for third in the Shawnee Relays. This year was the first year that points were scored in the Ottawa Relays. Gary Woodman scored three points for the squad when he placed third

in the hurdles. Coach Reynolds lettered eighteen boys.

The 1966 season was a big year for the Shawnee Heights trackmen, just as it had been for the wrestlers and the basketball team. The three years of grueling work paid off when the team placed fourth in the Ottawa Relays. This was followed by a first-place victory in a Quadrangular Meet with Holton, Gardner, and Osage City. The trackmen placed second in the Shawnee Heights Relays. Gary Woodman in low hurdles and high jump, Lawrence Wright in shot put, Glenn Rice and Bob Gilbert in javelin throw, paced the Thunderbirds to fourth place in the Regional Meet and went on to represent Shawnee Heights High School in the State Track Meet. Nineteen boys were lettered for the season.

The trackmen should have an even more outstanding year in the spring of 1967 when fifteen lettermen will be returning to pace the squad.

Mr. Claude Reynolds has coached the Thunderbird trackmen for the past four years. During the first year of competition the track team scored two second places in two dual meets, two fifth places in the Seaman Invitational and the Highland Park Invitational and last place in the Centennial League. In the 1964 season they scored a second and a third place in two quadrangular meets, a fifth place in the Seaman Invitational, sixth in Marysville Relays, fourth in the Shawnee Heights Relays and last in the League and Regional Meets. The trackmen scored a second and fourth place in two quadrangular meets in 1965. A tie for ninth was posted at the Paola Relays, fifth at the Seaman Relays, seventh at the Marysville Relays, a third place tie in the Shawnee Heights Relays, seventh place in the League Meet and eleventh in the Regional Meet. In the 1966 season the Thunderbirds scored a first in a quadrangular meet, second place in the Shawnee Heights Relays, third place in the Paola Relays, fourth place in the Ottawa Relays, in the Seaman Relays, in the

Marysville Relays and in a quadrangular meet, and a fourth place in the Regional Meet. They placed seventh in the League Meet and tied for tenth place in the State Indoor Meet.

#### GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics was not a competitive sport at Shawnee Heights the first year, 1962. Five boys joined the program, gaining experience and knowledge of the sport. Tom Bradshaw was the only boy who had experience in gymnastics. The team participated in four meets during the year. No letters were awarded. Coach Don Stroud did not receive any extra salary for coaching the group.

During the second year, the Shawnee Heights gymnastics team entered into competition. Ten boys participated. Doug, Mike and Steve Uhl scored several points, and David McAbee placed second in the City Meet on the trampoline.

Sixteen girls had joined the group during the 1963 season. They entered four meets with Donna Winkler and Mary Rooney placing consistently in balance beam and vaulting.

The 1964 season opened with 12 boys reporting for the gymnastics team. The Uhl boys and David McAbee continued to score for the team. This season was a successful one for the Thunderbirds--they won three dual meets. Only four girls competed in two meets during the 1964 season.

Coach Stroud had only one returning letterman, Roger Crook, to his 1965 team. Roger Crook and Gary Wadley scored in most of the minor meets. This season was a rebuilding one for the gymnastics team. The state and league adopted two new areas--long horse vaulting and all around which the Shawnee Heights gymnastics team could not enter since they lacked the equipment.

The Shawnee Heights gymnastics team have been coached throughout the four-year history by Mr. Don Stroud. David McAbee placed second in the City Meet on the trampoline for the second season of competition. In 1963 the team entered several meets but they were only able to score a few points. In the third year of competition they scored three wins in dual meets, but the following year the team scored only a few points again.

#### TENNIS

Ten boys reported for tennis during its first year, 1964. Stan Wagstaff had had some experience in tennis to become Shawnee Heights number one man for the 1964 season and the 1965 season. He placed second in number one singles in the league during the first year. The tennis team lost all of the duals and rated last in the league. Four boys were lettered at the completion of the first year of competition.

The 1965 season was a more encouraging year for the netmen. Sixteen boys reported for tennis practice. With this group, Coach Stroud was able to win three dual meets and out of four teams placed third in the league. They placed second to Buhler in the Regionals as a team. Again four boys were lettered.

During the third year of competition, 1966, twenty-five boys came out for tennis. Ten of the twenty-five boys were freshmen. The large number reporting indicated that Shawnee Heights High School was in need of expansion as there were only two tennis courts to accommodate the large group. The season was a success for Coach Stroud and his boys. The team lost only one dual meet, and placed second in the League. Both doubles teams placed in the semi-finals in the Regional Meet. The netmen placed second as a team at the Regional to Buhler.

### CHAPTER III

#### OUTSTANDING SHAWNEE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE

If an outstanding athlete in the four-year history of Shawnee Heights High School were to be named, it would have to be Dean Ferrell.

As a sophomore at the new school, Dean had the honor of being named co-captain of the football team on which he played quarterback. He was, also, honored by being named Honorable Mention to the All-City Team during that year. Dean also played guard on the basketball team. This first year served as a springboard into a tremendous high school athletic career for Dean.

He was re-elected to lead the 1963 football team as a co-captain. The 1963 football season found Dean turning in winning performances for a losing team. Coach Delk had only one complaint to make about his junior quarterback, "There's only one of him." However, Dean did not play the full season as quarterback; Coach Delk also alternated him at half-back and full-back. After Dean's performance in the Hayden-Shawnee Heights game, in which he played one quarter as full-back and three quarters as quarterback, running 62 yards in seven carries and completing three of nine passes for more than seventeen yards, he was named Capital-Journal Player-of-the-Week. He was never an outstanding player in any one phase, but he did everything well. He worked hard, and when the going got tough, that is when Dean would really "shine." He was named to the second team of both the All-League and All-City teams.

Dean again proved to be a leading play-maker for Coach Delk's 1963-64 basketball season. He scored consistently behind the leading scorer for the Thunderbirds, sophomore center, Gary Woodman. For his efforts throughout the season, Dean was named to the Northeast Kansas All-Area basketball first

team as the only underclassmen in the Class A division. He was also named to the Second Team Centennial League and Honorable Mention All State.

Dean returned as a senior the following season, 1964-65, to lead the Thunderbirds to their second football victory over Burlington (27-0) after having lost the first eighteen games in the school's history. He sparked the team to a well earned victory over Highland Park. Dean was unable to finish this game as he suffered a slight concussion when tackled on a 57-yard run in the second period. This victory was Shawnee Heights first in the Centennial League. By the middle of October Dean forged ahead to lead all players in rushing offense, rushing average, and total offense, in the city high school league.

The Shawnee Heights' "do-it-all" quarterback was a top "vote-getter" for the third annual Centennial League coaches all-star team. He lacked only one vote of being a unanimous choice on the team. As the league's leader in total offense, Dean was the only senior selected to the first team backfield.

Dean finished his high school football career by being named to the first team in the Centennial League, first team of the All-City selections, Honorable Mention Northeast All-Area, and he had been named Player-of-the-Week by the Capital-Journal. All of these honors were a result of a fantastic football career which was displayed in three years of competition. He had compiled 1,369 yards on 266 plays for a 5.2 average. Dean had gained 745 passing, completing 59 of 145 aerials and tallied 39 points on six touch-downs and three conversions, as well as being a standout as a defensive half-back.

After having a very successful senior year in football, Dean joined

the basketball team on which he was named team captain. He proved to be as much at home on the hardwood as on the gridiron. Opposing coaches ranked him as the best guard in the Centennial League. Throughout the season he proved to be the consistent plugger for the team. Dean was named to the Northeast All-Area team, and to the first team of both the Centennial League and All-City team.

Not only was Dean Ferrell outstanding on the football teams and the basketball teams during his three-year career at Shawnee Heights, but at the All-Sports Banquet he was presented with the decathlon trophy which is given to the athlete who has compiled the most points in ten of the twelve events in track. Dean's compilation of total points were higher than those of the previous year's decathlon winner Dwight Brown who had scored 6,854 to Dean's 7,200 for his senior year.

Dean Ferrell not only cast an image at Shawnee Heights as an outstanding athlete, but as an outstanding individual. He was a straight A student. The other students were very proud of his ability, and they were never jealous nor was there ever any dissension on the Shawnee Heights' teams as a result of these characteristics. The student body always spoke with great respect for him, and his fellow teammates felt he deserved any and all honors that he received.

When Dean signed a letter of intent for Washburn University, he was tagged as the best all-around athlete in the group of Topekans signing.

The legacy that "Babe" Ruth and "Lou" Gehrig left to Yankee players is similar to that which Dean Ferrell has left to Shawnee Heights athletes.

APPENDIX

## APPENDIX

### FOOTBALL

1962

<u>Opponents</u>		<u>Shawnee Heights</u>
Burlington	19	13
Holton	27	0
Altamont	46	6
Osage City	26	6
Washburn Rural	55	0
Sabetha	44	0
Raytown South	46	7
Seaman	43	0

1963

Burlington	13	7
Manhattan	62	12
Highland Park	13	0
Atchison	53	0
Hayden	19	0
Washburn Rural	34	14
Seaman	37	34
Leavenworth	41	6
Hiawatha	6	28

1964

Burlington	0	27
Paola	32	0
Highland Park	6	7
Atchison	27	0
Hayden	40	0
Washburn Rural	34	13
Seaman	13	20
Leavenworth	54	0
Hiawatha	20	14

1965

<u>Opponent</u>		<u>Shawnee Heights</u>
Burlington	0	7
Paola	13	12
Highland Park	21	6
Atchison	32	0
Hayden	13	0
Washburn Rural	33	7
Seaman	40	20
Leavenworth	46	0
Hiawatha	25	20

## BASKETBALL

1962-63

Seaman	65	32
Hayden	59	40
Haskell	64	42
Molton	76	62
Effingham	54	52
Highland Park	67	60
Osage City	60	47
Washburn Rural	73	47
Immaculata	64	73
Hayden	75	68
Seaman	75	50
Osage City	65	44
Haskell	43	39
Washburn Rural	84	59
Highland Park	61	54
Atchison	88	61
Immaculata	81	54
Atchison	71	31

1963-64

Seaman	73	54
Leavenworth	87	63
Atchison	63	61
Council Grove	69	66
Immaculata*	69	80
Maur Hill*	68	82
Tonganoxie*	75	65
Washburn Rural	65	43
Osage City	59	37

## 1963-64

Hayden	72	58
Holton	71	57
Turner	65	51
Leavenworth	73	67
Seaman	67	52
Atchison	80	57
Washburn Rural	74	59
Hayden	71	47
Highland Park	62	78
Maur Hill**	68	80
Wamego**	68	51
Effingham**	50	61

\* Christmas Tournament

\*\* Regional Tournament

## 1964-65

<u>Opponent</u>		<u>Shawnee</u>	<u>Heights</u>
Bonner Springs	49	54	
Turner	50	57	
Washburn Rural	66	50	
Desoto*	34	32	
Immaculata*	54	66	
Wamego*	57	37	
Leavenworth	65	43	
Seaman	45	63	
Osage City	69	57	
Hayden	63	50	
Holton	66	74	
Highland Park	69	72	
Atchison	55	73	
Washburn Rural	65	72	
Leavenworth	71	68	
Seaman	62	60	
Hayden	83	69	
Highland Park	59	45	
Atchison	77	74	
Hiawatha**	57	53	

## 1965-66

Bonner Springs	44	73
Turner	64	54
Atchison	57	75
Washburn Rural	65	71

## 1965-66

Eudora*	42	73
Wamego*	53	72
Effingham*	49	53
Leavenworth	69	75
Seaman	51	63
Osage City	44	67
Hayden	60	46
Molton	56	81
Highland Park	43	64
Atchison	70	85
Washburn Rural	57	52
Leavenworth	93	48
Seaman	71	59
Hayden	77	64
Highland Park	70	95
St. John's**	34	77
Abilene**	74	77
Washburn Rural**	59	80
Scott City***	40	44
Lyons**	55	57(OT)
Marysville***	61	59

\*\*\*State Tournament--Hutchinson

## CROSS COUNTRY

1962

<u>Opponent</u>		<u>Shawnee Heights</u>
Wamego	10	26
Seaman	15	50
Ottawa Invitational		254(11th)
Seaman Invitational		105(5th)
Centennial League		127(5th)

1963

Highland Park	28	27
Wamego Invitational		96(4th)
Seaman Invitational		215(7th)
Ottawa Invitational		250(11th)
Bonner Springs Invitational		70(3rd)
Centennial League		74(3rd)

1964

<u>Opponent</u>		<u>Shawnee Heights</u>
Washburn Rural	16	20
Washburn Rural	29	37
Seaman Invitational		269(9th)
Wamego Invitational		231(8th)
Centennial League		131(5th)

1965

Highland Park	28	27
Wamego Invitational		315(12th)
Washburn Rural	25	30
Seaman Invitational		323(12th)
Ottawa Invitational		418(16th)
Washburn Rural	27	28
Bonner Springs Invitational		83(3rd)
Centennial League		167(6th)

## WRESTLING

1963

Seaman	23	15
Hayden	21	21
Hayden	35	20

1964

(Records are incomplete)

Defeated by:  
 Hayden (twice)  
 Seaman (twice)  
 Columbus  
 Kansas School of the Blind

Won from:  
 Olathe (38-18)  
 Riley County (24-21)

1965

Defeated by:  
 Washburn  
 Hayden  
 Seaman

1965

Won from:

Kansas City School for the Blind  
 Olathe  
 Riley County

Tie:

Columbus

1966

Defeated by:  
 Seaman

Won from:

Paola  
 Turner  
 Kansas City School for the Blind  
 Olathe

Tournament results:

Olathe	Shawnee Heights placed 4th
Centennial League Meet	Shawnee Heights placed 5th
District Meet	Shawnee Heights placed 4th
Regional Meet	Shawnee Heights placed 4th
State Meet	Shawnee Heights placed 11th

## TRACK

1963

<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Shawnee Heights</u>
Highland Park Relays	11(5th)
Ottawa Relays	0
Hayden	48
Emporia Relays	0
Washburn Rural	49
Seaman Invitational	17(5th)
Fredonia Relays	2
Centennial League	1
Regional	0

1964

Ottawa Relays	0
Washburn Rural	61
Quadrangular	44(tie 3rd)
Seaman Invitational	20(5th)
Quadrangular	49(2nd)

1964

<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Shawnee Heights</u>
Marysville Relays	9
Centennial League	5
Shawnee Heights Relays	34(tie 4th)
Regional	0

1965

State Indoor	0
Ottawa Relays	3
Quadrangular	48(2nd)
Paola Relays	14(tie 9th)
Seaman Relays	18(5th)
Quadrangular	33(4th)
Marysville Relays	15(7th)
Centennial League	3(7th)
Shawnee Heights Relays	37(tie 3rd)
Regional	6(11th)

1966

State Indoor	5(tie 10th)
Ottawa Relays	23(4th)
Quadrangular	77(1st)
Seaman Relays	35(4th)
Paola Relays	39(3rd)
Marysville Relays	22(4th)
Quadrangular	39(4th)
Centennial League	16(7th)
Shawnee Heights Relays	45(2nd)
Regional	25(4th)
State	3

## GYMNASTICS

1962-63

## Meets:

Seaman Dual	Seaman 81 1/2	Shawnee Heights 24 1/2
Seaman, Washburn Rural and Shawnee Heights		Seaman 90
		Washburn Rural 53 1/2
		Shawnee Heights 6 1/2

## Centennial League Meet:

Atchison	62
Highland Park	49 1/2
Seaman	21 1/2
Washburn Rural	21
Shawnee Heights	0

1963-64

(The records were incomplete from 1963-66)

Won first in a dual meet  
Won second in a triangular meet  
Won third in a quadrangular meet

1964-65

Won two dual meets  
Placed second in a triangular meet  
Lost three duals

1965-66

No wins  
Five losses

## TENNIS

(Records are incomplete)

1963-66

No wins; 4 losses  
6th place in league

1964-65

Three wins  
Two losses  
3rd place in league

1965-66

Four wins  
One loss  
2nd place in league

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THE HISTORY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT  
SHAWNEE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL, TECUMSEH, KANSAS

by

EDMUND ROY DELK

B. S., McPherson College, 1959

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AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Physical Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Manhattan, Kansas

1966

## ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study was to provide a four-year record of the major sports of the interscholastic athletic program of Shawnee Heights High School and a brief record of the short history of the school as a background.

The results as recorded in this study can serve as a record of the athletic program of the new school.

Material for this study was obtained from interviews with the coaches and Principal Barney Hays, from the school yearbooks and newspapers, local newspapers, student handbooks, faculty handbooks, parent handbooks, and from the records of the Board of Education meetings.

The athletic facilities at Shawnee Heights High School have several unique features. Shawnee Heights was a rarity around the city athletic circuit—a school with its own football stadium.. The only city schools having their own were Highland Park and Hayden. The gymnasium's outstanding feature is the mercury vapor lighting. The gym was built with two complete stations which can be divided with a canvas partition.

Gate receipts provide the major portion of the money necessary to finance the athletic program at Shawnee Heights. Intra-city competition provides the largest gate receipts in all sports. Shawnee Heights athletic program has not operated in the black in the four-year history of the school.

Shawnee Heights High School joined the Centennial League at the beginning of the 1963 season which meant that the fall sports program played independently while the basketball team and spring sports joined the league during the first year.

All of the original coaching staff has remained in the school system with the exception of Mr. Norman Stoppel, who resigned after the first year.

Football has yet to have its truly successful year at Shawnee Heights.

Basketball is one of the sports which has brought recognition to the new school.

The 1965-66 season brought the greatest recognition to the new school when three new trophies were added to the display case. The trophies were from first place victories at the Tonganoxie Holiday Tournament and the Regional Tournament. The trophy at the State Class A Tournament was for finishing in the runner-up position.

Cross country has been a continua building program of inexperienced runners during its four years of competition. The harriers have yet to experience a successful season.

Wrestling has also brought recognition to Shawnee Heighte High School. During the four-year history, the grapplers have won nine meets, lost sixteen meets, and tied one meet.

The fourth year was also a great one for the track team. The track team placed fourth at the Ottawa Relays and won first in a Quadrangular Meet. They won the second place berth in the Shawnee Heighte Relays and fourth place in the Regional Meet. Four boys earned the right to travel to the State Track Meet.

The gymnastics team has spent four years in gaining experience. They have not had a season which can be termed a great success.

During the second year of competition, 1965, the tennis team experienced their first victories placing third out of four teams in the league. They lost only one dual meet and placed second in the Regional Meet, and also second as a team.

The outstanding athlete during the four-year history of the school was Dean Ferrell who was a sophomore when he came to Shawnee Heights High School.

The primary purpose of the athletic program at Shawnee Heights has been to build men through good conduct. Shawnee Heights received the Topeka Youth Council Sportsmanship Award the only two years it was awarded.